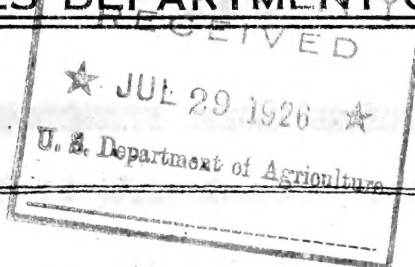


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MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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FURNISH MONTHLY NEWS PROMPTLY

About the 20th of each month notices are sent to each division of the Bureau requesting news items for the coming issue of the Monthly Letter. In order that the news for the month may be as complete as possible, allowing time for receipt of items from the more distant field stations in continental United States, the Editorial Office will hold copy until the 5th of the following month, but not later. All field stations should be instructed to send in their items promptly at the end of each month, so that they will reach Washington not later than the 4th or 5th day following. This arrangement should make it possible to mimeograph and issue the Monthly Letter on or about the 10th of each month. Only by prompt preparation and dispatch of items can there be regular and timely publication, and only if promptly and regularly issued will our "house organ" be a real news letter. - Ed.

FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. C. Craighead, Entomologist, in Charge

Ed. Foster, collaborator of the Federal Horticultural Board, recently sent additional specimens of the introduced West Indian termite Cryptotermes brevis Walker to Dr. Snyder. This termite not only damaged a trunk in St. Anna's Asylum in New Orleans, La., but also furniture and woodwork of the building. The trunk has been disposed of, and arrangements are being made to fumigate the building with hydrocyanic-acid gas, which is effective only against nonsubterranean "powder-post" termites. Elsewhere in the United States Cryptotermes brevis occurs only in southern Florida, and there always indoors in buildings. It has never been found out of doors in this country. Since this insect was introduced into South Africa the same has been found true of it there.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W. H. Larrimer, Entomologist, in Charge

Owing to the reorganization of the Southern Field Crop Insect Investigations, the project "Sugar Cane and Rice Insects" has been transferred to the Division of Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations, effective July 1. This adds to the personnel of this branch Messrs. Thos. E. Holloway, Wallace E. Haley, and Jesse W. Ingram.

Dr. W. H. Larrimer attended a meeting of manufacturers of farm machinery in Chicago on June 2. This meeting, intended to enlist the cooperation of manufacturers in the development of farm machinery to aid in the control of the corn borer, was also attended by L. H. Worthley and D. J. Caffrey, of this branch.

M. C. Lane, in charge of the Toppenish laboratory, recently made a short trip into southern Idaho, where, accompanied by F. H. Shirck, he made a survey of wireworm conditions in the Boise Valley.

George B. Kunkel has been given a temporary appointment, effective July 1, as Field Assistant at the Carlisle, Pa., laboratory. He will assist in Hessian fly surveys to be made there.

In June A. F. Satterthwait, in charge of the Webster Groves laboratory, made a survey of the billbug situation in New Jersey and near-by territory. He visited the Washington office on June 17.

Miss Margaret M. Marshall, of the Sacramento laboratory, spent a portion of her vacation in Washington in June, renewing acquaintance with old friends in the Bureau.

Early in June C. N. Ainslie, of the Iowa laboratory, made a survey of Hessian fly and other insect conditions in the western part of North Dakota and a portion of Montana.

G. G. Ainslie, of the Tennessee laboratory, and Dr. W. J. Phillips, of the Virginia laboratory, were in Washington for consultation on June 29.

Dr. Philip Luginbill, recently of the Columbia, S. C., laboratory, has been placed in charge of the newly established corn borer laboratory at Monroe, Mich. Studies will be made there of the various entomological and agronomic problems involving the European corn borer in southeastern Michigan, the project being cooperative between the entomologists and agronomists of Michigan State College and the Bureau.

A. I. Balzar, a recent graduate of the Kansas State Agricultural College, and R. A. Blanchard, formerly of the Webster Groves, Mo., laboratory, have been assigned as temporary assistants to Dr. Luginbill in corn borer work at Monroe, Mich.

Dr. Oscar C. Bartlett, State Entomologist of Arizona, visited the Washington office June 12 and the Arlington corn borer laboratory on June 15.

Early in June George W. Still, a recent graduate of the University of Illinois, L. E. Briggs, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and M. F. Sawyer, of Malden, Mass., were added to the temporary staff of the Arlington corn borer laboratory.

Among the visitors to the Washington office in June were Dr. Harry H. Knight, of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa, Prof. L. P. Wehrle, of Cornell University, and Dr. W. V. Balduf, of the University of Illinois.

A survey of field conditions in New England, made in April and May by D. W. Jones, R. C. Ellis, W. G. Bradley, B. E. Hodgson, and H. J. Cronin, showed that the careful practice there of clean-up methods in cornfields and weed areas had reduced the volume of plant material infested by the corn borer to such an extent that it has been difficult to obtain sufficient material for use in research. This condition has been brought about largely through the action of the Massachusetts clean-up law, compelling the feeding, plowing under, or burning of infested material, plus the educational effect of destructive outbreaks in the past. The low ebb of infestation in the past spring, together with the delayed seasonal development of the corn borer in May and June, indicates a continued reduction of corn borer infestation during the coming season.

For the period ending June 20, the total liberations of mater parasite adults from French importations last spring were as follows:

	<u>New England</u>	<u>Ohio</u>
<u>Eulimneria crassifemur</u> Thom.	1,021	1,941
<u>Microgaster tibialis</u> Nees.	8,997	8,312
<u>Apanteles</u> sp.	2,588	-----
<u>Zenillia roseanae</u> B. & B.	3,131	-----

Two additional species, Macrocentrus sp. and Angitia (Diocetes) punctoria Roman, are now beginning to give forth adults. A total of 22,344 mated adults of Exeristes roborator Fab., and 55,900 mated adults of Habrobracon brevicornis Wesm., have also been reared and liberated in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan, to reinforce and extend the colonies of these species liberated in previous years. The rearing and liberation projects are still in progress. A portion of the French importations was assigned to the European corn borer parasite laboratory of the Canadian Entomological Branch, at Chatham, Ontario.

D. J. Caffrey was at Chatham, Ontario, on June 7 and 8, to confer with A. B. Baird.

K. W. Babcock, of the Arlington laboratory, now engaged in ecological investigations in Europe, reports that the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture has again revived the "Edict of 1917" compelling all property owners to clean up cornstalks and other susceptible plant material in areas infested by the corn borer.

As reported by L. H. Patch, the first observed pupation of the corn borer in the field in Ohio occurred June 5, five days later than in 1925. In western New York H. N. Bartley recorded the first pupation on June 15, eleven days later than in 1925. In New England the early pupation, adult emergence, and deposition of eggs were about two weeks later than normal.

D. J. Caffrey returned to Arlington on June 17, after spending about 10 weeks conducting field experiments and observations in the infested areas of Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Miss Susan Alexander, who for several years had filled most efficiently the position of Secretarial Stenographer in this office, resigned from the service on June 15 last. It is Miss Alexander's intention to enter commercial work in the Middle West.

TAXONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS

S. A. Rohwer, Entomologist, in Charge

Dr. H. H. Knight, of Iowa State College, has been appointed Entomologist and assigned to work on the collections of Miridae from June 20 to about the end of August. It is hoped that Dr. Knight will in this time have an opportunity to arrange and classify a large share of the Miridae in the collections of the Museum, so as to facilitate prompt identification of insects belonging to this group.

Dr. W. V. Balduf, of the University of Illinois, is working in the Museum during the summer under a special grant, and in this time expects to continue his studies on chalcid flies belonging to the family Eurytomidae. Dr. Balduf has been studying the eurytomids for some time and hopes with the aid of the material in the National Collection to be able to complete certain taxonomic papers on this group.

W. S. Fisher returned on June 30 from a trip to Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, where he examined types of buprestid beetles of the genus *Agrilus* in the collections of the Boston Society of Natural History, the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the American Museum of Natural History, the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and the collection of Dr. Fall. Mr. Fisher has nearly completed his manuscript for a revision of this interesting and important group of buprestid beetles, and has been able to examine practically all of the types of the species of the genus *Agrilus*.

In the latter part of June the collections of Orthoptera, Odonata, and neuropteroid insects were moved, and the rooms in which these collections have been housed were rearranged. Mr. Caudell, instead of occupying room 386, now has his office in room 384.

During the month of June Dr. H. E. Ewing continued his studies on the life history of chiggers, and applied different types of sulphur over a considerable area near Boy Scout Camp Roosevelt, on Chesapeake Bay, in an effort to determine how successful sulphur is in the control of chiggers, and which type gives the best results.

C. T. Greene returned to Washington June 9, after a three months' trip in Panama for the Federal Horticultural Board. While there he devoted most of his time to the association of adults and larvae of fruit flies, particularly those belonging to the genus *Anastrepha*. In this work Mr. Greene was very successful, making many notes on the habits and development of fruit flies, as well as on authentic material of the larvae. Mr. Greene was also able to secure a number of interesting dipterous larvae and collect many specimens which are new to the National Collection. A short account of his trip appeared in The Official Record for June 23.

Dr. J. M. Aldrich, Associate Curator of the Division of Insects, National Museum, returned to Washington early in June, after a two months' collecting trip in Guatemala. Dr. Aldrich was able to collect a considerable number of interesting flies and rear a small number of fruit flies. In addition, he cooperated with the Guatemalan Department of Agriculture in a conference on grasshoppers, and have expert advice on the dipterous parasites of the forms of grasshoppers which are so abundant in Guatemala and neighboring countries. A short account of his trip appeared in The Official Record for June 23.

DECIDUOUS-FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. L. Quaintance, Associate Chief of Bureau, in Charge

F. E. Brooks, in charge of the French Creek, W. Va., field station, investigated insect conditions in Madison County, Ill., and Bexar and Medina Counties, Tex., during the last half of June.

Oliver I. Snapp, in charge of peach insect investigations at Fort Valley, Ga., made a trip to southern Georgia early in June to investigate the status of the Oriental peach moth in that section. As at Fort Valley, the infestation was found to be very light, except at Valdosta, where the first infestation in the Southeast was found in 1913. While in southern Georgia Mr. Snapp visited the Bureau's pecan insect laboratory at Thomasville.

TRUCK-CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. E. Graf, Entomologist, in Charge

R. E. Campbell, Associate Entomologist, in charge of the Alhambra, Calif., laboratory, and also Secretary of the Pacific Slope Branch of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, attended the meetings of the Association at Mills College, Oakland, Calif., June 16 to 19, 1926.

C. H. Popence, Associate Entomologist, of the Washington office, visited Baltimore, Md., early in June, to investigate an outbreak of the blackberry crown borer (Bembecia marginata).

In June S. E. Flanders, Agent, located at Saticoy, Calif., visited Berkeley, San Jose, Santa Cruz, and King City, Calif., to ascertain the distribution and host plants of the lima bean pod borer.

N. A. Vappula, of the Agricultural Institute of Finland, recently visited the Madison and Columbus, Wis., laboratories, where he observed the methods used in the control of the pea aphid and other truck-crop insects.

Dr. C. G. Woodbury, of the National Cannery Association, Washington, D. C., and W. E. Nicholoy, Secretary of the Wisconsin Pea Packers' Association, visited the Columbus, Wis., laboratory about the middle of June, and saw the new-model aphidozer in action.

The following men have been given temporary appointments as Field Assistants and assigned to the laboratories indicated: D. M. DeLong, H. L. Weatherby, and O. E. Gohm, Mexican bean beetle investigations, Columbus, Ohio; Herman Beerman, truck-crop insect investigations, Philadelphia, Pa.; W. J. Douglass, Mexican bean beetle investigations, Estancia, N. M.; and A. C. Davis, truck-crop insect investigations, Alhambra, Calif.

Dr. S. B. Fracker, State Entomologist of Wisconsin, Prof. R. E. Vaughan, of the University of Wisconsin, and Mr. Nudick, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Maine Department of Agriculture, were visitors in June at the summer laboratory at Columbus, Wis.

BEE CULTURE INVESTIGATIONS

James I. Hambleton, Apiculturist, in Charge

Prof. L. M. Bertholf, of Western Maryland College, Westminster, Md., and Carlton E. Burnside, of the University of Michigan, have accepted temporary appointments as Junior Biologists. Both are continuing investigations previously begun, Professor Bertholf on the light responses of the honeybee, and Mr. Burnside on the fungus diseases of the honeybee.

Visitors at the Bee Culture Laboratory in June included C. J. Carroll, Chief Engineer of the Szechuen Hankow Railway, Hankow, China, and George H. Rea, Extension Apiarist of Pennsylvania.

JAPANESE BEETLE INVESTIGATIONS

Loren B. Smith, Entomologist, in Charge

L. B. Parker left Riverton on June 7 for the Pacific coast, and will board ship at San Francisco for the Orient. With the exception of a possible brief stop in Japan, to confer with T. R. Gardner, formerly stationed at the Riverton Laboratory, he will go direct to Calcutta. The objective point of Mr. Parker's journey is Shillong, capital of the province of Assam, in the northeastern part of India. From Calcutta to Shillong the distance is some five hundred miles. For the present, headquarters will be located at this place, where Mr. Parker will join C. P. Clausen, who has already spent five years in the far east doing similar work, and together they will search for parasites of the Japanese beetle, to be introduced into the United States.

Charles H. Hadley, Director, Pennsylvania Bureau of Plant Industry, and T. L. Guyton and H. B. Kirk, Entomologists, of Harrisburg, Pa., were recent visitors at the Japanese Beetle Laboratory.

James B. Cronin, of the American Cyanamid Company, recently spent a day at the Laboratory.

Dr. A. J. Quaintance, Associate Chief, Bureau of Entomology, Dr. T. J. Headlee, State Entomologist of New Jersey, and C. H. Hadley, Pennsylvania Bureau of Plant Industry, members of the Advisory Committee on the Japanese Beetle Project, met recently at Riverton to discuss matters of policy relating to this project.

The following men are temporarily employed at the Japanese Beetle Laboratory: C. A. Clark, E. E. Atwood, and E. G. Lundberg, Connecticut State College; E. Rivney, C. A. Crooks, and F. E. Baker, Massachusetts Agricultural College; A. T. Hawkinson, Rutgers University; W. E. Jordan, Cornell University; C. H. McDonnell, Wesleyan University; I. L. Hunt, K. B. Rogers, and H. W. Coward, University of Pennsylvania.

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Lehrbuch der bienenzucht... Bensheim, J. Ehrhard & comp., 1870. 252 pp.
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7. Bouvier, E. L. Pycnogonides. Paris, Lechevalier, 1923. 69 pp. illus. Index bibliographique, pp. 63-66.
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- Horsfall, J. L.
The life history and bionomics of Aphis rumicis. 57 pp., 9 pl. Feb. 15, 1926. Univ. of Iowa Studies vol. 11, No. 2) Bibliography, pp. 53-57.
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